

IMAP Implementation Committee

Briefing Paper

Action 10.1 Regional Open Space and Trail Network

Purpose

1. Strategy 10 of the Inner Melbourne Action Plan aims to 'Complete the regional open space network'. This Strategy is important because our parks, gardens and waterways are a defining feature of the Inner Melbourne Region. They are vital in contributing to the sense of openness and provide a natural relief from built-up areas.
2. Action 10.1 *Regional Open Space and Trail Network* aims to 'Map the regional open space and trail network identifying ownership, management responsibility, agreed function and gaps in open space and trails, and develop an implementation program for the development and extension of the network. The program would detail location, cost, funding source and timeframe of works.'

Background

3. Much of the open space in Inner Melbourne is part of a connected network. This extensive network of open space, including the corridors of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and their tributaries, and Port Phillip Bay and its beaches, is increasingly important on a local and regional level, as well as for social, recreational and environmental reasons. In recent years this network has also come to include urban spaces or plazas.

However, there are gaps in this network that have arisen from historic decisions or changing needs. These include:

- Important open space links that have never been established, such as along parts of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and their tributaries
- Existing open space areas that have been severed by road or rail projects
- Potential links between open space areas that have never been properly established.

It is important that any recommendations and actions identified to fill these gaps are region-wide to ensure open space is better connected, and that identified gaps in this network are addressed at the same time protecting and preserving important riparian corridors.

4. Map 6: The Regional Open Space Framework from the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (attached) shows the regional open space network and recommended links and areas for improvement.

The Inner Melbourne Region has a relatively extensive system of walkways and a shared path located primarily along its waterways but also has other linear parks such as old railway reserves and the new parks in the Docklands precinct. Similar high quality walking environments can be created through new open space links. A number of streets in the region are very wide and a quality walking environment can be created by a broad 'greenway' along one side of the road reserve

Key Issues

5. This work will involve regional; collaboration to share knowledge and information in both assessments of existing strategies to link the open space network across the municipalities. This work will involve liaison with Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water to nominate priorities and existing Capital works programs and management plans.

Benefits may include efficiencies in the development of various projects in terms of joint funding and partnership opportunities, sharing of resources and the engagement of various partners.

Discussion

6. Implementation and outputs will include:
 - a. Discussion and Agreement on the;
 - detailed role and function of open space in the network;
 - balance between local and regional use
 - balance between managing spaces for recreational and ecological values

- b. Audit - Mapping of the regional open space and trail network identifying;
 - ownership
 - management responsibility
 - risk management issues and overview
 - collation of existing information and identification of gaps
 - agreed function and gaps in open space and trails
 - develop information to fill gaps
 - development of case studies
 - c. Development of Implementation Plan detailing;
 - priorities
 - location
 - cost
 - funding sources
 - timeframe of works
7. Outcomes will include:
- a. Stakeholder engagement and IMAP Position
 - b. Review of existing processes/priorities in IMAP Councils
 - c. Agreement on best method of implementation
 - d. New processes developed and adopted
 - e. Audit of the regional open space and trail network
 - f. Implementation plan / program to deliver new projects across region. (A tool to expedite delivery noting that the staging of delivery across the region will be dependent on local prioritisation and the availability of funding). The implementation plan will include budget and delivery components in order to undertake works in future years commencing 2010/2011

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the IMAP Implementation Committee resolves to:
- (a) **Adopt** the Draft Project Brief and **support** the progression of Action 10.1

Appendix:

Map 6 - The Regional Open Space Framework (from the Inner Melbourne Action Plan)